

## Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 48

### Introduced by Assembly Member Grove

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Bill Berryhill, Conway, Donnelly, Garrick, Harkey, Jeffries, Miller, Morrell, Nestande, Nielsen, and Olsen)

April 7, 2011

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 48—Relative to Valley Fever Awareness Week.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 48, as introduced, Grove. Valley Fever Awareness Week.

This measure would declare April 10 through April 16, 2011, as Valley Fever Awareness Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Valley Fever (coccidioidomycosis), a progressive,
- 2 multisymptom, respiratory disorder, is an orphan disease and has
- 3 been ignored by the pharmaceutical industry; and
- 4 WHEREAS, It is caused by the inhalation of tiny airborne fungi,
- 5 which grow in the soil primarily in the southwest portion of North
- 6 America, that are released into the air by soil disturbance or wind;
- 7 and
- 8 WHEREAS, Valley Fever attacks the respiratory system, causing
- 9 infection that can lead to symptoms that resemble a cold, influenza,
- 10 or severe pneumonia; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Left untreated or mistreated, infection can spread
- 12 from the lungs into the bloodstream, causing inflammation to the
- 13 skin, permanent damage to the lungs and bone tissue, and swelling

1 of the membrane surrounding the brain, leading to meningitis,  
2 which can be devastating and even fatal; and

3 WHEREAS, Approximately 20 percent of the population of the  
4 United States lives in or next to endemic areas and a significant  
5 percentage travel to an endemic area every year; and

6 WHEREAS, Within California alone, Valley Fever is found in  
7 portions of the Sacramento Valley, all of the San Joaquin Valley,  
8 desert regions, and portions of southern California; and

9 WHEREAS, An estimated 150,000 infections occur every year  
10 in the United States; and

11 WHEREAS, Chronic and disseminated forms of Valley Fever  
12 cause significant morbidity, take months to years to resolve, and  
13 result in medical costs that average \$30,000 per year per case; and

14 WHEREAS, Valley Fever kills an estimated 200 to 300  
15 Americans every year, which is more than tuberculosis; and

16 WHEREAS, Valley Fever most seriously affects the young, the  
17 elderly, those with lowered immune systems, and those of African  
18 American and Filipino descent; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Hans E. Einstein is the foremost authority on  
20 Valley Fever. After his residency at Kern General Hospital in  
21 Bakersfield, California, where he currently resides, he became the  
22 assistant medical director of the Kern County tuberculosis  
23 sanitarium in Keene. While he was there, he discovered that some  
24 patients had Valley Fever rather than tuberculosis. Dr. Einstein  
25 has since devoted decades to developing a vaccine for the  
26 potentially fatal airborne disease; now, therefore, be it

27 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
28 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature does hereby declare April  
29 10 through April 16, 2011, as Valley Fever Awareness Week; and  
30 be it further

31 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
32 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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